



**Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs

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### **TUCSON MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN BASHA'S BABY FOOD JAR HOAX**

TUCSON, Ariz. -- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced here that on March 22, 2005, Michael P. McLaughlin, 48, of Tucson, Ariz., pleaded guilty to Tampering with Consumer Product, in federal district court.

McLaughlin had been charged with violating Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 1365(c), Tampering with Consumer Product. The defendant knowingly communicated false information that he had tainted a consumer product by placing rat poison in baby food jars in a specific supermarket in Tucson, Ariz.

A conviction for this offense carries a maximum penalty of five years, a \$250,000 fine or both. Sentencing is set before Judge Raner C. Collins on May 31, 2005.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI, the Tucson and the San Diego Police Departments. The prosecution is being handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-1846-TUC-RCC (BPV)

RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-052

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